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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/034,574	12/27/2001	Junaid Akhtar	10541/345	1541

29074 7590 08/27/2003

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EXAMINER

BURCH, MELODY M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3683

DATE MAILED: 08/27/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/034,574	AKHTAR ET AL.
	Examiner Melody M. Burch	Art Unit 3683

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 04 August 2003 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

a) The period for reply expires _____ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
 b) The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
 ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.

2. The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:

- (a) they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
- (b) they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
- (c) they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
- (d) they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____

3. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): the 112 second rejections and the claim objections.

4. Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).

5. The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: See Continuation Sheet.

6. The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.

7. For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____

Claim(s) objected to: _____

Claim(s) rejected: 1-21 and 31-33.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____

8. The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is a) approved or b) disapproved by the Examiner.

9. Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s)(PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 7. ✓

10. Other: _____

Continuation of 5. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: Nickel discloses the claimed invention. Applicant argues that Nickel does not teach or suggest a configuration for the main leaf spring that provides continuous variable spring deformation rate. Examiner notes that in lines 7-10 on pg. 7 of the specification Applicant explains that the technique of blending multiple arc portions 20 and 22 having different radii and different lengths within the main leaf spring produces a continuous non-linear variable spring rate. Examiner maintains that the main leaf spring 1 of Nickel includes the characteristics described by Applicant on pg. 7 that produce a continuous non-linear variable spring rate. Particularly, Nickel shows in figure 1 multiple arc portions including the central arc portion having a radius and a length and the outer arc portions one of which being shown in the area of the lead line of number 1 having a different radius and length from that of the central arc. Examiner also notes that Nickel teaches the use of a load plate 2. Applicant argues that element 2 is used to increase the spring rate of the main spring 1. The claim language does not preclude the use of the load plate as an additional means of achieving an increased spring rate. Applicant's arguments regarding the Hellwig reference are persuasive. Accordingly, the rejections including the Hellwig reference have been withdrawn. All of the pending claims remain rejected with Nickel alone or in combination with other references.

mmB
8/26/03

M.C.G.
8/26/03
MATTHEW C. GRAHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 310